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Charles Bartlett's

NEWS FOCUS

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Restalinization

THERE IS NO chance that the new Russian move to rehabilitate in part the record of the Stalin era will result in the return of Joseph Stalin's body to the Lenin mausoleum outside the Kremlin walls. The more likely consequences are that Volgograd will eventually be renamed Stalingrad and that a long slow campaign will be waged to balance the fruits of the Stalin era with the blemishes. The feeling is strong in the new regime that Nikita Khrushchev overdid the renunciation of Stalin.

The Welcome Mat

DESPITE SIGNS that he has regained his liveliness, President Johnson is not resuming the pace of official visits by foreign leaders that was interrupted by his operation last fall. Only Ayub Khan of Pakistan, Ludwig Erhard of West Germany, Harold Wilson of Britain, and Mme. Ghandi have come to Washington in the last six months and no further visits are presently scheduled. However the State Department is pressing its backlog of leaders who want to come to Washington and the welcome mat at the White House is likely to be rolled out again before long.

Naval First

THE FIRST naval reservist to be named a rear admiral in at least 70 years is a 48-year-old Republican congressman from San Francisco, William Maillard. The nomination has been sent to the Senate over the reported objection of Defense Sec. Robert McNamara, who persistently opposes the efforts of the services to use their reserve links with members of Congress to further their interests on the Hill. Maillard came out of the war as a lieutenant commander and has been diligent in pursuing his reserve obligations so he is certain to be confirmed.

WASHINGTON—American officials are tempering their grim predictions of mass deaths from famine in India this summer as a consequence of Prime Minister Indira Ghandi's visit. The Indians, disposed to play down the problem in order to discourage panic and hoarding, complained that the American assessments were causing much embarrassment. President Johnson was perhaps the worst offender. At a recent briefing for Congress in the White House, the President said that more people may die from hunger in India this year than the entire populations of North and South Viet Nam. This would mean death for more than 25,000,000 Indians, an estimate which far exceeds the gloomiest Indian expectations.

The Tax Outlook

THE WORD from the White House is not to anticipate a decision by the President on raising taxes soon. The key factor is the cost of the war in Viet Nam and the Pentagon is still unable to project its specific needs for the last half of the year. The President can wait until June and still hope to get a tax bill through Congress. His closest advisers in this period of uncertainty are, as far as one can learn, W. B. Murphy of Campbell Soup; Frederick Kappel of AT&T; Stuart Saunders of the Pennsylvania R.R.; David Rockefeller; and several Texans, particularly Jay Taylor, an Amarillo banker-oilman.

LBJ Draws Fire

THE PRESIDENT'S new assignments for his staff of national security advisers are widely criticized within government as a

further step in the disorganization of the White House. Mr. Johnson tells aides that Bill Moyers will have 60 per cent of the responsibility for directing the National Security Council staff. The rest will be divided between Walt Rostow, who is taking over McGeorge Bundy's office and will essentially continue to concentrate on planning, and Robert Komer, a Central Intelligence Agency alumnus who was Bundy's deputy. One great danger is that Moyers, already deployed on many fronts, will have far more work than he can possibly do. Many feel that Mr. Johnson will have to refine this arrangement before it will work.

Poles Angry At U.S.

THE POLISH GOVERNMENT is angry at the State Department leak of its recent mission to Hanoi to probe for avenues toward peace. When Averell Harriman visited Warsaw in December, he urged that the mission be undertaken and promised that it would be kept a secret in Washington. There were two similar leaks in the Kennedy era and the Communists are building a case that the U.S. government cannot be trusted to keep a secret. At any rate the Poles saw no sign of a readiness in Hanoi to make overtures toward peace. The pro-Chinese faction in the Politburo has been strengthened by the return from South Viet Nam of the country's No. 2 general, Nguyen Chi Thanh.